

LETAC Progress Report:

Where are we now? Where are we heading?

Purpose. Formed by City Council, the purpose of the Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission (LETAC) is to make recommendations to Council to promote improved understanding and relationships between the Colorado Springs Police Department and the public. LETAC does not have oversight over CSPD, nor does LETAC investigate police-involved incidents or propose actions against department personnel. Visit [Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission | Colorado Springs](#) to see complete statements of LETAC's mission and goals, as well as the ordinance that authorized its formation.

Where are we now? LETAC is engaged in a “Listening and Learning” phase during which four broad topics have been identified for preliminary exploration. These are:

- **Communications between CSPD and citizens**
- **Racial Bias**
- **Crisis Response**
- **Use of Force**

LETAC regular meetings are:
1st and 3rd Monday of every month, 6-8 PM,
held virtually via Microsoft Teams:
[Click to Join Meeting\(link is external\)](#)
Telephone: 720-617-3426
Conference ID: 629 946 63#

In addition to regular meetings listed in the box, LETAC also hosts Listening Sessions once per month for citizens to comment on any/all aspects of public safety and policing. **Our next Listening Session is April 26, 6pm: use the link in the box above.**

The focus of our April 5 meeting was Crisis Response

The term, “Crisis Response,” refers to calls for service for a collaborative team of officers trained in crisis intervention and licensed mental health professionals. LETAC is exploring these questions:

1. *What approaches to crisis response (procedures, policies, models, etc.) have been adopted by CSPD? How do we know they are effective?*
2. *From the perspective of overall public safety, how do we effectively allocate resources between traditional policing and crisis response?*

- On April 5, Commissioners discussed key learnings and further questions that emerged from the March 15 CSPD presentation on Crisis Response. Commissioners generally affirmed the possibility of recommending an expansion of Crisis Response/Intervention in the City, but no specific recommendations have been proposed at this time. Part of the challenge is determining the shape (i.e., scope, specificity, etc.) of any given recommendation. LETAC is seeking additional information about the City's approach (e.g., budgeting, staffing allocations, etc., across all involved departments and partner organizations). Individual commission members continue to research the models of other cities. No decision was made about next steps.
- Commissioners reviewed logistics, format, and outreach strategies for the monthly Listening Sessions (formerly known as Town Halls). Several new formats are being considered as COVID restrictions ease, including panel discussions, Q&A sessions with experts and authorities, and in-person gatherings in the neighborhoods (e.g., in community centers, churches, schools, etc.).
- The need for LETAC to have access to CSPD policies and procedures was affirmed. The purpose of such requests is for the Commission to educate itself and to help ensure citizens can readily access such information as well. LETAC continues to explore how best “to provide a conduit for the concerns and needs of both citizens and the police department to be shared and discussed with City Council” (the first of LETAC's formal goals).

Where are we headed? On April 19 and May 3, LETAC shifts to policies and procedures related to use of force. These initial examinations of the four topics listed above (in red) will not be the only time a given area receives Commission attention. Instead, this **Listening and Learning** phase is intended to develop a shared understanding among Commissioners about these complex areas from both police and citizen perspectives. When LETAC concludes its initial Listening and Learning phase next month, it will determine next steps for these areas, including whether and when to adopt specific recommendations. Several sub-committees have been formed to gather additional information in areas related to those four topics.